

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FUNCTIONS OF THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF LABOR

REF: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SEAN HOLLY NEA/RA

1. AS REQUESTED HERE ARE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE KEY DEPARTMENTS OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:

THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. AMONG THE KEY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE
PURVIEW OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR ARE LABOR RELATIONS, EMPLOYMENT,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

2. LABOR RELATIONS. WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS ARE NEGOTIATED
FREELY BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND LABOR UNIONS, IN MOST CASES REPRESENTED BY THE HISTADRUT. THE MINISTRY'S CHIEF LABOR RELATIONS
OFFICER MAY MEDIATE IN DISPUTES AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, OR ON
THE INVITATION OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

3. EMPLOYMENT. THE SERVICES LAW (1959) REQUIRES ALL WORKERS
SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROFESSIONALS, SENIOR
CIVIL SERVANTS AND THOSE ENTERING FAMILY BUSINESS, TO DO SO
THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT LABOR EXCHANGE SERVICE, WHICH IS
OPERATED BY THE MINISTRY. THE SERVICE HAS 205 EXCHNAGES;
SEPARATE BUREAUS ARE PROVIDED FOR, AMONG OTHERS, ACADEMICALLY
TRAINED WORKERS AND FOR MINORS.

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4. VOCATIONAL TRAINING. THE APPRENTICESHIP LAW (1953) REQUIRES ALL WORKING MINORS TO ATTEND A VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. COURSES ARE RUN BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS HADASSAH, AMAL AND WIZO, AND BY THE MINISTRY, WHICH OPERATES TRAINING CENTERS WITH AN ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OF ABOUT 20,000.

5. LABOR INSPECTION. THE MINISTRY HAS A DIVISION OF LABOR INSPECTION, WHICH ENFORCES LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, HOURS OF WORK AND REST AND ANNUAL LEAVE, AS WELL AS LAWS AND REGULATIONS DEALING WITH SIMILAR MATTERS. INSPECTORS ARE EMPOWERED TO INSPECT, EXAMINE AND ENFORCE THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS; ALSO TO GRANT, WHERE AND WHEN NECESSARY, SPECIAL PERMITS FOR OVERTIME WORK, FOR WORK ON THE WEEKLY DAY OF REST, FOR NIGHT WORK AND FOR OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD PROCEDURES.

6. THE ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY. THIS INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1951 BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY, THE HISTADRUT, THE ISRAEL MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF: "RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INTRODUCTION OF MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO ACHIEVE BETTER USE OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES, AND TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF PRODUCTIVITY IN THE ISRAELI ECONOMY." THE INSTITUTE'S CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE:(A) INTRODUCTION OF MODERN INDUSTRIAL MANAGERIAL TECHNIQUES; (B) RESEARCH INTO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY; (C) A CONSULTATION SERVICE, FOR ENTERPRISES AND INSTITUTIONS, IN SUBJECTS RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR; (D) TRAINING OF MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS AND TECHNICIANS, AND (E) THE ORGANIZATION OF A TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE.

7. THE NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE. ESTABLISHED IN 1954, THE INSTITUTE IS UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. IT SERVES AS ISRAEL'S SOCIAL SECURITY AUTHORITY, AND HAS TWO BROAD AREAS OF ACTIVITY: (A) THE COLLECTION OF INSURANCE PAYMENTS, AND (B) THE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS, INCLUDING: OLD AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE; WORK INJURY COMPENSATION; UNCLASSIFIED

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MATERNITY LEAVE ALLOWANCES FOR WORKING MOTHERS; AND LARGE FAMILY PAYMENTS -- GIVEN TO FAMILIES WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN. THE MINISTRY ALSO OPERATES SEPARATE SECTIONS FOR THE LABOR ADMINISTRATION IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS. TOON

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